

“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive

Phan Rang AB News No. 133

“Stories worth telling”

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‘X’ Marks the Spot For Shadow Strike

(Seventh Air Force News, April 23, 1969)

NBA TRANG - X marked the spot - an enemy position - for the AC-119 Shadow from the 14th Special Operations Wing during recent action near Da Nang.

The Shadow, piloted by Maj. Jack B. Morgan, San Angelo, Tex., was called to support a Marine unit seven miles southwest of Da Nang. Arriving over the target area, the crew was told to "fire on the X."

"The Marines positioned a truck mounted with a narrow beam of light to the north and another to the south of the enemy position," related instructor pilot , Maj. Benjamin R. McPherson, Lexington, Ky.

"All we had to do was fire right where the beams intersected," he said. "Then ground control told us to hold up while they adjusted the lights so that we could start again."

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According to Major Morgan, this was the first time he or any member of his crew ever had ground support of this kind. Other members of the Shadow crew were Lt. Col. Paul J. Buckley, Hampton, Pa., aircraft commander; Capt. James A. Brauer, Sacramento, Calif., navigator; and Capt. Thomas W. Wood, Salt Lake City, Utah, night operations systems navigator.

Also SSgt. Ronald D. Dillon, Rocky Mount, N.C., flight engineer; ALC Robert J. Wojcik, Altoona, Pa., illumination operator; and SSgt. Alvin E. Reynolds, Boise City, Okla., and SSgt. William A. Welsh, Mulvane, Kan., gunners.



Base Turnovers

(The Anderson Herald, Wednesday, March 29, 1972)

7th Air Force deactivated its 315th Tactical Fighter Airlift Wing on Tuesday and turned over the \$60-million air base at Phan Rang on the central coast to the South Vietnamese.

The deactivation of the wing cut authorized American Air Force Strength in Vietnam by 2,000. Six flying squadrons served with the unit in Vietnam. Only two now are active, however, one at Tan Son Nhut in Saigon and the other at Bien Hoa north of the capital. There are two other U.S. air bases remaining in South Vietnam, Cam Ranh Bay on the central coast and Da Nang in the north.

Phan Rang Air Base, 168 miles northeast of Saigon, was built in 1955-56 at a cost of about \$60 million. The value of the remaining facilities is estimated at \$46 million by the Air Force. The Air Force 10,000-foot aluminum mat was removed for use elsewhere, as were 58 buildings, saving the U.S. taxpayer \$14 million.

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35th SPS, Aussie Patrol
Joint Effort Foils Sapper Attack

(Seventh Air Force News, 11 February 1970)

By SSgt. Douglas Christy

PHAN RANG - A North Vietnamese Army reconsapper was detained and two other NVA were killed during recent night-time activity on the base perimeter here.

Members of the 35th Security Police Squadron killed the two NVA at the fence line. A patrol of the Number 2 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force Airfields Defense Guards, injured the other NVA during a fire-fight. He was detained later near the base.

The action began shortly after midnight when A1C Carl H. Baker, a tower guard, sighted movement at the fence. Reaction forces arrived but were unable to detect further signs of the enemy.

“Shortly our attention was drawn to a tower about 100 yards down the fence.” Stated MSgt Louiel C. Gibson Jr., night perimeter supervisor, Panther Flight. From their post, Sergeants Ronald F. White and James E. Burns, were watching someone moving near the fence. The person disappeared when Sergeant Gibson shined a small spotlight into the man’s position.

“Then things started happening.” The sergeant said. “We heard gunfire from Airman Baker’s post, so we hustled down there fast.”

The airman had spotted a pair of individuals in the fence. They were made visible by the new lighting system recently installed on the perimeter. Sighting through a starlight scope mounted on his M-16, A1C Baker fired two shots, sending the pair ducking for cover and possibly wounding one.

When Sergeant Gibson arrived, the tower guard pointed out where the two NVA were trying to hide. The sergeant went to the road where he met Staff Sergeants Robert L. Dragich and James M. Blair Jr., sentry dog supervisors. Accompanying them was Sgt. Jess M. Glenn from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing Office of Information.

The security policeman positioned themselves on the road and had the enemy illuminated with

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a large, jeep-mounted spotlight. Second Lt. Dennis M. O’Callaghan, a member of the 821st Combat Security Police Squadron here, joined them.



Keeping Phan Rang Safe. Photo by John Graham



Eric Johnson is on the 50 cal; far left is John Graham; far right with M79 is Chupp (his last name and not sure of spelling. We (Eric Johnson) lived together at the Heavy Weapons compound on

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other side of the flight line.. by Juliet area). Second in from left possibly John Gorto. Photo by Eric Johnson.

“I gave the standard challenge in Vietnamese and English.” Sergeant Gibson said. “When they did not respond, I yelled ‘get up.’ Both did and began running toward the canal.”

A hail of gunfire then brought the pair down. “We found out later that one had a grenade in his hand and the other was carrying an automatic pistol suspended from his neck by a cord,” remarked Sergeant Dragich. :In the action that followed the challenge, for some reason the one did not toss his grenade. At first he probably could not see us because of the lights. We were about 12 feet away at the time. Lucky thing for us.”

“That morning we send out a patrol on a daylight sweep,” stated Flight Lieutenant Brian Lawler, Number 2 Squadron defense officer.

“While a main force went looking for signs of the enemy’s escape route, several stayed at the bridge over the canal and were looking around it. That was when they found the injured sapper hiding in the canal a short distance from where he ADB patrol had made contact several hours earlier.” He said.

“Even while the ambulance was enroute to pick up the detained sapper and give him more extensive treatment, he was talking. He told us interesting things about his unit,” the flight lieutenant said. “And he told us where he had hidden two automatic rifles, grenades, ammunition and assorted medical and personal equipment.”



**Phan Rang Improves Base Defenses
Army Captain Aids 315th**

(Seventh Air Force News, 23 April 1969)

PRAN RANG - A former U.S. Army enlisted infantryman, now commissioned and serving as ground liaison officer with the 315th Special Operations Wing, Phan Rang AB, is making

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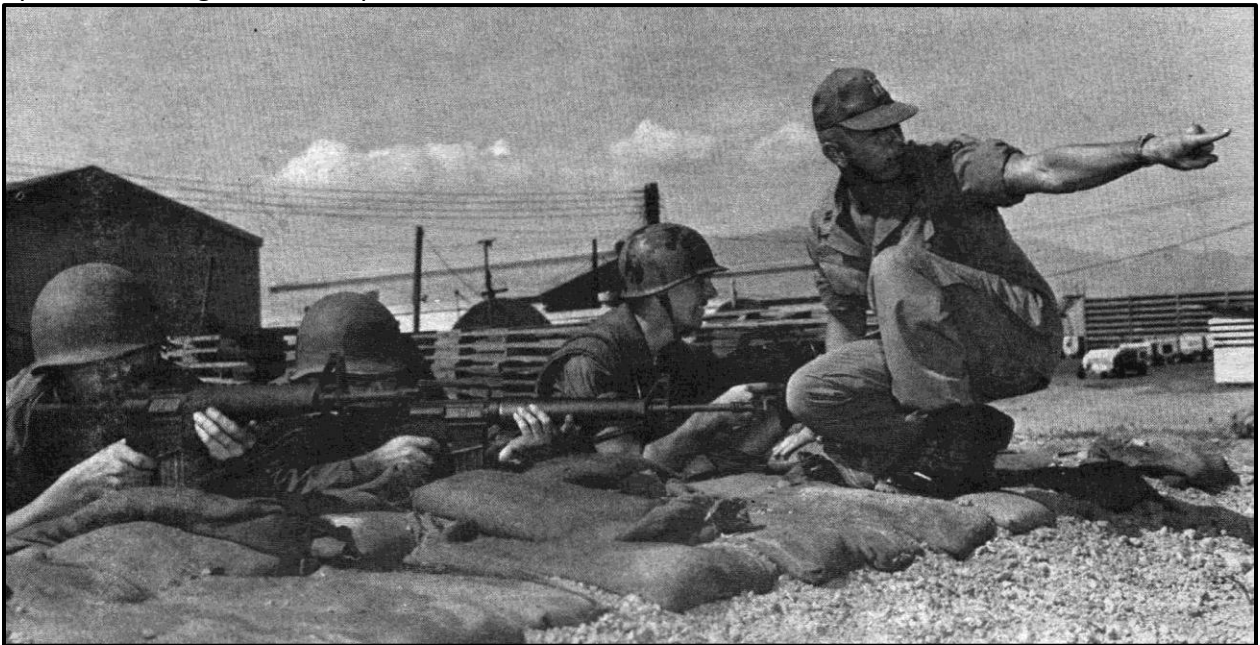
good use of his extensive experience.

Army Capt. Ralph L. Conklin, Clarksville, Tenn., 315th GLO, accepted the task of making a complete review of existing defensive positions at Phan Rang. In coordination with base security officials, he established tighter security measures to protect the 315th's operations, supply and aircraft revetment areas.

An enlisted infantryman for 16 years prior to commissioning, Captain Conklin is well qualified for the assignment.

Surveying the area surrounding the 315th, he determined the most logical enemy avenues of approach and established bunker positions to block these routes should the enemy manage to penetrate the base perimeter defensive positions.

Fortifications completed, Captain Conklin then coordinated with Air Force Lt. Col Billy T. Amend, Stillwater, Okla., 315th chief of plans division, to select bunker teams from within the special operations wing's own manpower resources.



Capt. Ralph L. Conklin points out to (right to left) Sgt. Chester D. Walker Jr., Denison, Texas; SSgt. Ronald E. Walker, Asheville, N.C.; and Sgt. Victor A Currier Jr., Manchester, N.H., the fields of fire from their bunker. Captain Conklin established a perimeter defense system to protect the C-123 Provider maintenance and operations from enemy infiltrators. U. S. Air Force photo by A1C Christopher Boles.

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Bunkers were numbered and each team assigned a specific location, assuring that full manning would be available at each position.

Men, more familiar with the insides of an aircraft engine than that of an M-16, were given thorough training in weapons care, assembly, and sighting procedures by Captain Conklin. In the bunkers, he explained each man's responsibilities and necessary reactions should an enemy breakthrough occur.

Setting up visual sighting stakes, he established positive fields of fire and prepared recognition signals to be used should friendly forces fall back to these defensive positions.

As a result, the 315th now has an effective means of supplementing or backing-up the security police forces should an enemy force attempt a breakthrough.

Captain Conklin is currently serving his second tour in Vietnam. He previously served with the 1st Vietnamese Airborne Battalion where he received two Bronze Stars with the "V" device, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Vietnamese parachute wings with palm.



Religious Sects Aid Civic Action Effort

(Air Force Times, May 1970)

By Maj. John Tabor

PHAN RANG AB, Vietnam-A classic example of religious tolerance can be found in Phan Rang City, Five major religious sects function side-by-side in this Vietnamese community of 60,000, located on the east. central coast. If the sub-divisions of these religions were counted, the number of independent denominations would easily exceed 20.

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Temples, churches, shrines and holy places encompassing the Cham, Buddhist, Cao Dai, Christian and Confucian faiths can all be found within a five-mile radius of the air base.

While watching a confucian priest strike the gong and light the holy incense, accompanied by two youthful priestesses, one seems far removed indeed from USAF and its civic action program. But this is not so. Every major religious group in the area is involved in one or more projects with the base's civic action office.

Capt. Roland D. Stanley, a pilot in the 352d Tactical Fighter Sq., and a frequent volunteer on civic action projects, adds, "You know, it is easy to get the Buddhist nuns, the Roman Catholic sisters and the Confucian priestesses mixed-up in your mind. They are all trying in their quiet way to help the orphans and poor people of Vietnam. What their specific faith is seems of little concern when it comes to doing good for one's fellow man."

The oldest major religious structure in the Phan Rang area is the Cham temple in nearby Thap Cham village. The Chams are a Hindu-Moslem discipline. Built in 1306 A.D., their red brick temple commemorates the Chams' independence from the Chinese in the 14th Century.

For a short while after the temple was built, the Chams operated their own religious-secular kingdom in what is present-day central Vietnam. But the sect, numbering less than 50,000, was politically weak and was eventually integrated into the main stream of Vietnamese political life. Today, though, the Chams are independent.

Among the numerous Buddhist shrines found in the Phan Rang valley, one of the most unusual is the Buddhist Spirit House in Aao Long Hamlet. Reincarnated spirits from the beginning of time have dwelt in this holy place. Buddhists make up 75 percent of the country's population.

A comparative newcomer to the religious sects in the area is the Cao Dai faith. Organized in 1919, it is one of two religions originating in Vietnam. Numbering about two million followers and centered mostly in the Saigon area, the Cao Dais embrace parts of the Christian, Taoist, Confucian and Buddhist religions plus some facets of spiritualism.

Confucian temples are also common in Phan Rang City. One of the most impressive to Americans is the red and yellow temple located on the main road running through the city.

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Christian churches are present, especially Roman Catholic, Their architecture runs from early gothic to modern. Typical is a gothic-style church and shrine built in 1900. The interior of the church, decorated in the European manner of the late 19th century, reflects the strong influence of the French on the life-style of the Vietnamese people. The Catholic population of Vietnam is estimated to be about three million.



615th TFS Sponsors Students

(7th Air Force News, February 1969)

PHAN RANG-Twenty-six Vietnamese students in nearby Bo De High School are receiving tuition assistance from members of the 615th Tactical Fighter Squadron, here, through that unit's support of the base civic action program.

The 615th is now starting it's third year of aid to the students at Bo De, a private school. As such, the students are required to furnish funds for tuition, books, etc. The 615th aid provides a good portion of these school expenses.

Capt. William M. Lamos, Long Lake, N.Y., 615th Civic Action officer, states that "recognizing the need to aid these students in their educational development, unit members have nearly unanimously contributed to this important cause."

Each month, captain Lamos personally visits the school in nearby Phan Rang City and presents the scholarships to the students. These visits, he feels, provide him a closer bond of friendship and give him the opportunity to offer encouragement to individual scholars.

"These students," Captain Lamos said, "are selected on the basis of academic achievement and family hardship or need for additional monetary assistance. The ones we help are those who have already proven their desire and ability for education. Our role is to help them obtain the education they want and need.

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"Our only regret," he concluded, "is that we can't help all the students who need funds to continue their education."



FROM BOYS TO MEN

BY Mario Campanaro

(Used by permission of the author)

February 1969, I was a young kid, wet behind the ears and thought I knew it all. I enlisted in the Air Force in November 1967, and was now stationed at Langley AFB, VA. I had everything I wanted: family, friends, a girlfriend back home and several in Virginia. Yes, I had it all; then came my orders. I was to report to Lackland AFB, Texas, for Advanced Combat Training, then 30 days leave, followed by a trip to sunny Vietnam. My Orders were clear: report to the Commander 35th Security Police Squadron, Phan Rang AB on April 8, 1969.

“I felt a pit in the bottom of my stomach. VIETNAM, it must be a mistake.”

Phan Rang, were the HELL is that? I’d never heard of it. Wait it must be a mistake! I’m not old enough to drink or for that matter vote. Vietnam, that was someplace I heard of on the news, and people were getting killed there. I felt a pit in the bottom of my stomach. VIETNAM, it must be a mistake. I need to reread these orders, I just registered for William and Mary College. Several other boys in my unit also received their orders. Their orders read much like mine with the exception that they were going to other exotic named places like Cam Ranh Bay, Biên Hòa, Da Nang, Phu Cat, and Pleiku. No, the orders were real, no mistake--I was going to Vietnam.

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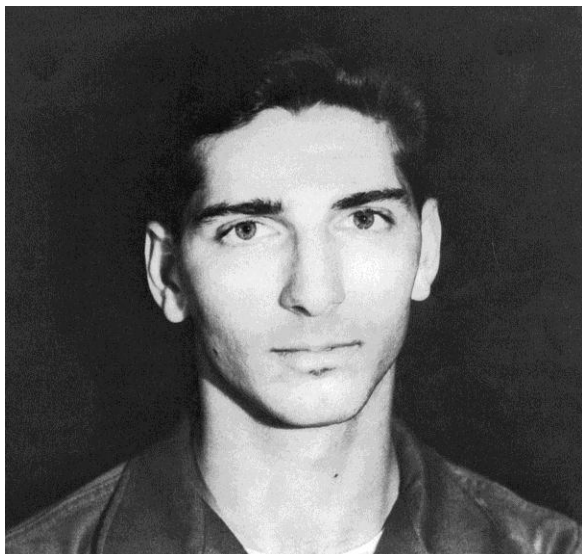
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The day came when I said my goodbyes to my fellow Security Policemen at Langley. Some of the older troops gave me advice and wished me well. It was hard leaving a place which I had spent the last 13 months meeting and making new friends. It was even harder to understand why I was going to a place I never heard of, a place where people were dying, but it still hadn't sunk in. I was going to a place which until my enlistment in the Air Force I had never heard of. I arrived at Lackland AFB, and reported as ordered. The next few weeks were going to be packed with training, inoculations for typhoid, small pox, and malaria, and I'm sure we were given shots for other unnamed diseases. We received additional training on the M16 Rifle, .38 Caliber revolver, and then introduced to the M60 Machine Gun, .50 Caliber Machine Gun, M79 Grenade Launcher. We fired and cleaned these weapons so many times that I think I can still take them apart and put them together blind folded.

I learned how to drive an APV, with its spring loaded doors. This was important, you lower the seat first before releasing the doors, or your head would become detached from your body. Survival was also a big part of training, along with First Aid. SURVIVAL, FIRST AID? This was starting to sound real serious! Each day we learned something new, something that we would need to survive in a place that soon we would find ourselves. Training was now over. Our Drill Instructors taught us everything they knew so that we would be able to take care of ourselves, however this was mostly textbook with some practical experience. The real thing was still to come. As I left Lackland AFB to go home on leave, I still thought this was all a dream.

“boy it was nice to be home”



Mario Campanaro

Home; boy it was nice to be home. I was back to family, friends, and of course my girlfriend. Home cooking, hanging out with friends, drive in movies. Yes, with my girlfriend. It seemed like I had never left for the Air Force. I forgot all about words like M16, SURVIVAL, and FIRST AID. I was home for 30 days, and then with the blink of an eye the days flew by. As each day passed I watched the news more often, hearing about the numbers of Americans killed and wounded, seeing body bags lying on the ground in places I

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never heard of, waiting to be put on helicopters or planes for their final trip home. Watching young men who lost parts of their bodies, both physical and mental. This was now becoming surreal. Tomorrow was the day I was to leave for Vietnam.

As my mother, father and four brothers gathered around me trying to make small talk it became evident to me that they were as worried as I was. As I packed my duffel bag there was an eerie silence throughout the house. It was now time to leave, and as we all loaded into the Pontiac for the trip to Newark Airport. I began to have flashbacks of the previous few weeks. The home cooking, family, friends and of course the drive in theater with my girlfriend in the Pontiac. My thoughts now turned to the training I received at Lackland: Remember to change the barrel on the M60 or it will cook off rounds when hot; charge the .50 caliber twice so as to chamber the first round; keep your M16 clean so that it won't malfunction. Then I heard on the news something that sounded like *Canada*! Was I hearing correctly? Some guys were leaving the country and going to Canada to avoid Vietnam. Words like deserter, draft dodger, and conscientious objector. This played out in my mind. What should I do? I was brought up to love this country, and it was my obligation to protect and defend her. I was going to Vietnam. As I waited to board the airplane I said my goodbyes to my family. I still see the tears in my mothers eyes. I remember my father telling me to be safe, stay low, and don't volunteer for anything, but the look in his eyes told me everything I needed to know. As I boarded the plane I didn't look back, because I didn't want to see the anguish my family was going through. Next stop Travis AFB, California, then stops in Japan, Guam, and then Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

“ As we approached the coast of Vietnam it looked like a peaceful place.”

As we approached the coast of Vietnam it looked like a peaceful place. We landed at Cam Ranh Bay at dusk, and as we disembarked the plane the heat and smell of the country slapped me right in the face. This was certainly different than what I had just left. We were ushered to a transient barracks, long enough to drop off our gear, and then taken to the mess tent for some dinner. Once finished it was right back to the barracks and we were told to get some sleep, that we would be leaving at 5 a.m. to board a C-123 which would take us to Phan Rang AB. Sleep! What sleep? Between F-4C fighter jets taking off for combat missions, the anxiety, and my adrenaline pumping there was no way I was going to sleep. This was my first wake up call. Phan Rang was the birthplace of Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam. He was the enemy, and I was going to where he was born. Next stop Phan Rang.

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We boarded the C-123 and took off. There was nothing unusual about the flight other than we sat in web-netting. Our flight was short and as we approached Phan Rang the plane went into a steep dive. Later I found out that the base was surrounded by mountains and that if we flew low over the mountains to land you would be inviting enemy ground fire. This was my second wake up call. My next observation, as we taxied toward our departure area, was aircraft and trucks damaged or destroyed by enemy mortar or rocket attacks, filled in by the occasional sapper attacks. Remember earlier when I said we were given text book training along with some practical experience, well no one mentioned “sapper attacks.” This I would learn later was when Vietcong would attempt to penetrate the perimeter of the base, and make their way towards the flight line to blow up our aircraft, fuel and ammo dumps. The sappers only had one problem, they needed to get by our K-9 Units, and the security towers manned by the Security Police. Our primary goal was to detect and prevent the enemy from penetrating the base.

“Tower duty was one of the scariest assignments I had.”

Once I reported to the Commanding Officer, it didn’t take long to be assigned to a post. As they say I went from the frying pan right into the fire. Tower duty was one of the scariest assignments I had. Visualize being dropped off by yourself with a M16 rifle and a radio in a desolate area. Now climb up the wooden tower which is approximately 15 feet high. From this vantage point you look out over three courses of barbed wire fence spaced out by approximately 50 feet apart with claymore mines and pressure mines strategically placed. The barbed wire has tin cans tied to them so as to make noise if anyone or anything attempts to enter the wire. Now add into the mix “Charlie”, which was slang for Vietcong, who was out there waiting for you to screw up. Throw in a moonless night and you have the ingredients for disaster. As you are being dropped off at towers with names like Bravo 8 or Juliet 4, you are reminded to stay alert and awake, and then came the occasional “if your tower is being overrun by Charlie go to the farthest corner of the tower, bend over and kiss your ass goodbye,” but not before you call in that your being overrun.

Now you’re in the tower looking out over the wire and all you see are dead trees and bushes which were sprayed with what we now know was Agent Orange. Your killing-field extends several hundred yards. Occasionally you see a villager with his livestock passing by, or is he Charlie posing as a villager checking you out? The next time you see a friendly face is when SAT team pulls up to drop off food, water, and additional ammo. If you spot movement in your field

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of fire you call it in. The SAT team responds to back you up, but until they get there you're on your own. The security desk stays in radio contact with you informing you if the movement in the field is friendly's setting up an ambush based on intelligence. In either case your heart is pounding and your weapons are made ready to fire and trained on the movement. If friendly's are not in the area, you are given clearance for H & I Fire (Harassment Interdiction Fire). This is an attempt to let Charlie think you know he's out there and you're confronting him.

Every day that goes by you become closer to going back to the world, otherwise known as home. Back to your round eye girlfriend if she didn't send you a “Dear John Letter.” Back to your fellow countrymen who would appreciate that you went to war and served your country, and back to a government that gave it's all to make sure you won the war they sent you to fight, and are now ready to support the troops who returned with wounds that are visible and invisible to the naked eye.

“I will never forget the faces of those I proudly served with...”

In closing I hope we all learned from our mistakes. I will never forget the faces of those I proudly served with, even though time has erased most of their names. I will never forget or condone those who left this country as draft dodgers or whatever they wish to be called, or the people who gave them amnesty years after the war ended. I'll never forget how I along with many others were treated when we returned stateside. I'll never forget the 58,000 men that were killed in action or the thousands of wounded who did come home broken and in pieces. I'll never forget the MIA's (Missing in Action), or their families who today still wonder where their missing loved one is. Finally I'll never forget those that died or are dying at an early age due to illnesses caused by Agent Orange. It is my Honor and Privilege to know and serve with you. So, to those BOYS who became MEN who I proudly served with, I salute you and I say loud and clear “WELCOME HOME”.

Mario P. Campanaro, Sergeant U. S. Air Force, Phan Rang AB: Republic of Vietnam,
April 8, 1969-April 8, 1970

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Phan Ranger Passes - Robert F. MacAvoy

October 1, 1946 - June 18, 2017



Robert F. MacAvoy, 70, of Clark, New Jersey entered into eternal rest on Sunday, June 18, 2017.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend the Funeral from the Walter Johnson Funeral Home, 803 Raritan Rd., Clark, on Friday, June 23 at 8:45 am, thence to St. Agnes Church, Clark, where a Funeral Mass will be offered at 9:45am. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Clark. Visiting hours will be on Thursday from 4 - 8 pm.

Mr. MacAvoy was born in Rahway to Frank and Ann (Glagola) MacAvoy. He proudly served his country as a Sergeant in the Air Force at Phan Rang Air Base in Vietnam. He was the recipient of the Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars. He was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster. He lived in Rahway, prior to moving to Clark 48 years ago.

Mr. MacAvoy was a Project Engineer for Merck & Company of Rahway for 32 years, retiring in 2001. He was a member of the Catholic War Veterans and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He was a Civil War Historian and was the author of multiple reference and history books regarding the War. He was a feature speaker on the Civil War at various NJ Historical Societies. He was also a member of the NJ Sesquicentennial Committee.

Mr. MacAvoy was the beloved husband for 50 years of Diane C. (Ciuba) MacAvoy; the devoted father of Robert F. MacAvoy, Jr. and his wife Elaine, Diana Sutherland and her husband Chris, Jennifer Keelan and her husband Anthony and Joseph MacAvoy; cherished "Pop" to his

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grandchildren, Bridget, Molly, Melanie and Hannah and the brother of Kathleen MacAvoy and Nancy McNally.



A1C **Gene A. Bicksler**, 35th SPS Box 10025, APO S.F., Calif. 96321. (*Freeport (Ill) Journal-Standard, Thursday, November 19, 1970*)

A1C **Michael J. Thomas**, Box 12169, 35th Security Police Sqd., APO S.F., Calif. 96321. (*Freeport (Ill) Journal-Standard, Thursday, November 19, 1970*)

GRIFFISS AIR FORCE BASE — The Air Force Commendation Medal has been presented to Sgt. **Richard Pavlovec** of the 416th Bomb Wing by Col. Salvador E. Felices, commander. Now serving as a flight chief with the 416th Security Police Squadron (SPS), Sgt. Pavlovec was cited for his service as noncommissioned officer in charge of law enforcement operations with the 35th SPS, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam. (*The Post-Standard, September 8, 1967*)

PHAN RANG REUNION SHIRTS



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The Selling of Phan Rang

		
Note 1	Note 2	Note 3
		
Note 4	Note 5	Note 6
		
Note 7	Note 8	Note 9

Note 1 - This F-100 Super Sabre-Vietnam badge is for sale [here](#). One will be free to the first person asking for it at the reunion. If you don't see it, ask for it.

Note 2 - This F-100 Super Sabre-Vietnam badge is for sale [here](#). One will be free to the first person asking for it at the reunion. If you don't see it, ask for it.

Note 3 - The “Happy Valley” patch and sticker are available for sale. Send check to Jack Anderson, 826 72nd St. SE, Auburn, WA 98092, make check payable to “Phan Rang Reunion”. A 4.5” Custom Embroidered Patch cost \$7 ea. And a 4.5” sticker costs \$3 ea.

Note 4 - Phan Rang AB Challenge coins. These coins are already collector items. I’m surprised that aren’t on eBay selling for three times or more than what we sold them for. They will be available for sale at the reunion.

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Note 5 - I have 6 of these patches left courtesy of Ken Miller who gave everyone attending the reunion in Tucson one. These six will be given to the first 6 members of the 435th MMS to ask for one.

Note 6 - These classic polo's carry the same badge as shown in Note 3. They are not tied to the reunion. The seller, Design-Apparel, claim that orders received now will ship on or before July 10, then the next ship date is August 14 and September 11. These dates could change based on the number of orders. The Polo shirt is available in black and white and as of this writing; the back shirt is outselling the white shirt, two to one. You can order these Phan Rang Polo shirts [here](#).

Note 7 - Proud Air Force Wife of a Phan Rang AB veteran T-Shirts available in white, pink, blue and yellow. I think Linda has ordered one and Joe is getting one for Nancy. You can order this shirt [here](#).

Note 8 - These are the 2017 **Phan Rang Reunion Official T-Shirts**, emblazoned on the back with the Happy Valley Phan Rang AB Patch as seen in Note 3. The front sports the 2017 Phan Rang AB Reunion Logo along with the words “Phan Rang AB Vietnam Reunion”. These reunion shirts always become collector's items as we have a different design, by our members every year. You can order this shirt [here](#). I need to inform you that the black outline (stroke) that outlines the shirt is just something I put in there to make the shirt stand out on a white background. That goes for all the shirts...they do not have a black border.

Note 9 - There are Phan Rang AB hats in tan, black and blue; they even have hats for the ladies. They have hats for just the USAF and even retired and for our brothers that were not in the Air Force they have hats that would satisfy any branch of the service. Start [here](#) looking for Phan Rang hats and don't forget the travel mugs, USAF back scratches (what would life be like without one?) and a very sturdy and classy custom Phan Rang license plate frame. For items of other branches of the service, just click on the left navigational pane to propel you to the great Internet warehouse...



**“Happy Valley” Phan Rang AB, Vietnam
...keeping the memories alive**

Phan Rang AB News No. 133

“Stories worth telling”



Here are the costs for the Seattle Reunion 2017:

Reunion Fee: \$10.00/person

Plate Banquet Dinner: \$50.00/person

Beef Banquet Dinner: \$55.00/person

Trip to Museum of Flight: \$50.00/person

You can send your checks at any time from now until September 20th. Send them and make them payable to:

Happy Valley Reunion

826 72nd St SE

Auburn, Wa 98092

See you in Seattle! October 11th thru the 15th

Here's the latest from the Pacific Northwest

Seattle 2017 is only 4 months away! We have only 15 rooms left on our allotment, so don't delay! We may be able to add rooms, but not at the last minute. Get the \$109/night price now!

Use this link for hotel reservations. Don't call! Use the link.

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/.../SEASPD-T-PHA-2017.../index.jhtml>

One thing most visitors to Seattle want to see is the Pike Place Market. To get there from the hotel, take the free shuttle to the Tukwila Light Rail Station. From there it's a \$6 day pass fare to downtown Seattle. Go to the surface and walk 5 easy blocks to the market. It's an amazing place!

You can also take an elevator from the Market down to the heart of the Seattle waterfront. See you in four months! Remember the Banquet is on Sunday, October 15th. Come earlier in the week to see Seattle at its finest!

Here are some important dates:

Wednesday, October 11th: The Hospitality Room will open.

Friday, October 13th: Trip to Boeing's Museum of Flight.

Sunday, October 15th. 4:00 PM. Annual Business Meeting. We'll decide which East Coast City

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we go to in 2018.

Sunday, October 15th: 5:00ish. Group picture.

Sunday, October 15th: 6:00 Banquet.

I would encourage anybody who's planning on attending to reserve your room **NOW!** That will lock-in the \$109/night rate.

Doug's Comments

I hope that you enjoyed this issue of the Phan Rang Newsletter. We have a lot of new people that have just discovered our group and we are looking forward to possibly seeing some of them at the reunion. Please make your reservations NOW! If you have any questions or concerns please contact [Jack](#) or [myself](#). This newsletter was compiled and published by [Douglas Severt](#). Previous issues of the Phan Rang Newsletter are available [here](#) for download.